

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respond hereto to the Final Rejection of January 17, 2008.

Claims 2-7 are in the application.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claim 5 in said application.

Claims 2-4, 6, and 7 were again rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by the Vignotto et al reference, with the Examiner again noting that, "...Figure 3 illustrates that projection 26 and the fixed part flange 13 can be formed integrally with one another using notches 43. This notched connection effectively makes the two mating parts integral with one another. It is for this reason that the rejection of claims 2-4, 6 and 7 have been maintained..." (emphasis supplied).

In response to the prior action and in order to clarify the appropriate terminology, which remains the only issue extant before allowance of all the claims, claim 7 was amended to specify that the projection is formed as a single integral portion of the fixed part of the wheel bearing et al. The amendment was based on a telephone discussion with the Examiner during which it was agreed that the language of the projection being formed "as a single integral portion" was acceptable to define the one piece integral nature of the claimed fixed part as being structurally different from the projection and notched connection of the cited Vignotto et al reference. With the new rejection, which reiterated the prior rejection, it was apparent that the substance of the initial telephone interview and agreement was either not entered or the Examiner withdrew the agreement and re-instated the rejection. In a telephone interview with the Examiner on February 19, 2008, the situation was clarified to the effect that the language was still deemed to be insufficient to differentiate from the Vignotto reference.

Since the only issue was still a semantic one, a further amendment was suggested to the effect that the projection is initially formed as a single integral portion, i.e., the projection being a one piece element prior to combination with other elements. Since the Vignotto reference provides an "integration" resulting from a structural combination of elements (i.e., a crimping connection) this amendment was agreed to by the Examiner as differentiating the claimed invention from the Vignotto reference structure and is included in the above amendment. Since the same substance was at issue previously and only semantic changes are involved, no new

issues are being raised and the Examiner is requested to enter the amendment in order to resolve prosecution of the application..

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims and pass this case to issue.

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THROUGH THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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ON
February 22, 2008

RCF:IN/cli:ns

Respectfully submitted,



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